



**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON

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For Immediate Release: May 8, 2009

**DLNR TO BEGIN ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT KOKE'E STATE PARK, KAUA'I**  
**-- Public warned to expect single-lane closures**

**Project Completion Short \$8 Million to \$10 Million Due to Legislature's Failure to Pass  
Recreational Renaissance Plan**

LIHU'E -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will begin construction on Monday, May 18, 2009 on improvements along a three-quarter mile stretch of Koke'e Road in Koke'e State Park, from around the 17-mile marker to the Hawai'i Air National Guard station.

"Koke'e State Park is one of the top destinations on Kaua'i for residents and visitors'. These improvements are part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade our state parks statewide and to ensure safety and comfort for all residents and visitors who use the parks," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

Work will include: reconstruction of this section of the roadway, including a new base course, new asphalt paving and new striping; drainage improvements including new drainage swales; wooden guardrails for sections next to steep slopes; relocation of affected utility poles; and related improvements.

"We are making these improvements to ensure the safety of our park visitors as they visit this unique resource. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding during this period," said Thielen.

During the construction there will be some inconvenience from movement of equipment and noise, and one lane of traffic will need to be closed at any given time. The project contractor will utilize appropriate safety and traffic control measures.

(more)

Work will be performed during daylight hours, starting before traffic increases from visitor use. Construction near the Air National Guard Station will allow continuous access for its staff.

Project completion is expected in November 2009.

Roadway widths for straight sections will be maintained at 18 feet, but to ensure the State of Hawaii's responsibility for public safety, curve and critical sections will be maintained at 20 feet; again this is for public safety of residents and visitors of the State of Hawai'i.

Though improvements are needed along the entire stretch of Koke'e Road, due to limited funding, the project is being done in phases. This section is being addressed first due to previous impacts to the roadway from poor drainage that increased water build-up and led to eroded and missing sections in the road.

Completion of improvements along the full length of the roadway will require an additional \$8 million to \$10 million which was requested in DLNR's Recreational Renaissance but not approved by the Legislature. The Department will continue to seek this funding; and meanwhile, will utilize available resources for interim pothole repairs and repaving.

Project contractor is Goodfellow Brothers, Inc and the contract cost for this phase is approximately \$2,600,000.

Koke'e State Park is located 15 miles north of Kekaha on Koke'e Road (Hwy. 550) and it adjoins Waimea Canyon State Park.

The park features lodging, tent camping, wildland picnicking, hiking in a native rain forest and along the rim of Waimea Canyon. Additional trails in neighboring forest reserves provide excellent areas for observation of native plants, forest birds and insects.

The Koke'e Museum in the park has informative displays about flora, fauna and history of this area. The park offers seasonal plum picking and trout fishing, and pig hunting in the public hunting area.

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30 second rip and read: The Department of Land and Natural Resources will begin construction on Monday, May 18, on Koke'e Road in Koke'e State Park. A three-quarter mile stretch from around the 17-mile marker to the Hawai'i Air National Guard station will be affected. There will be some inconvenience from movement of equipment and noise, and one lane of traffic will need to be closed at any given time. Construction near the Air National Guard Station will allow continuous access for its staff.

For more information news media may contact:

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